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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,908	02/10/2006	Junya Kawamoto	KAS-5191	5895
7590 04/01/2009				
Mattingly Stanger & Malur Suite 370 1800 Diagonal Road Alexandria, VA 22314			EXAMINER COOLMAN, VAUGHN	
			ART UNIT 3618	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 04/01/2009	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/567,908

**Applicant(s)**

KAWAMOTO ET AL.

**Examiner**

VAUGHN T. COOLMAN

**Art Unit**

3618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4 and 6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4 and 6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-85/86)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20060210
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanda et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,266,901 B1) in view of Kleineisel (DE 197 32 868 A1).**

[**claims 1 and 4**] Kanda discloses a construction machine (FIG 1) comprising a lower travel structure (10), an upper swing structure (30), mounted on said lower travel structure, hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including travel motors (column 11, lines 5-11) and a blade cylinder (54) and hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including valve apparatuses (see man inside cab of machine) for control of said travel motors and said blade, and a swivel joint (110) for coupling a plurality of first tubes (shown in FIG 3 – hoses would be connected to connector ports 124 in 111) extending to said

hydraulic equipment disposed on said upper swing structure and including said valve apparatuses (75, 76) for control of said travel motors and said blade cylinder and a plurality of second tubes (FIG 10) extending to said hydraulic equipment disposed on said lower travel structure and including said travel motors and said blade cylinder in a relatively rotatable manner, wherein said swivel joint comprises a body (112) rotating together with said upper swing structure, and a spindle (111) mounted to said lower travel structure, and rotatably inserted in said body, said plurality of first tubes being connected to said body and said plurality of second tubes being connected to said spindle (via 125), said plurality of first tubes and said plurality of second tubes being communicated [communicating] with each other through a plurality of circumferential grooves (122) formed in an inner peripheral surface of said body and an outer peripheral surface of said spindle and through a plurality of axial passages (121) formed inside said spindle.

Kanda fails to disclose said body having thicker wall portions formed respectively in opposed sidewalls thereof and a plurality of axial passages communicating with said plurality of circumferential grooves are formed respectively inside said thicker wall portions.

Kleineisel teaches a swivel joint (FIG 3) wherein a body (4) of the swivel joint includes thicker wall portions (upper and intermediate portions of body 4, as compared to lower portion of body) formed respectively in opposed sidewalls thereof and a plurality of axial passages (63a-c) communicating with a plurality of circumferential grooves (64a-c) are formed respectively inside said thicker wall portions said plurality of axial passages being opened at an upper end surface of said body to provide a plurality of ports. The combination would disclose said plurality of first tubes being connected to said plurality of ports whereby said plurality of first tubes are connected to said upper end surface of said body in a concentrated layout. It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the apparatus shown by Kanda with the thicker sidewalls including axial passages therein of Kleineisel in order to provide the advantage of a more compact tubing arrangement that also protects the ports and connectors of the first plurality of tubes from damage.

**[claims 3 and 6]** Kanda further shows the upper end surface of the body being positioned above a main frame (31) constituting a bottom portion of said swing structure, and said plurality of first tubes are connected to said plurality of ports (124 or 62a-c) at a position higher than a bottom surface of said main frame.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please see attached form PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VAUGHN T. COOLMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-6014. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8am-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on (571) 272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher P Ellis/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3618

VAUGHN T COOLMAN  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3618

/V. T. C./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3618